GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5703
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
ELECTRICITY CONNECTION IN UT CHANDIGARH
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the rates of `minimum charges` for electricity connections in Union Territory, Chandigarh have been raised manifold recently, even for domestic consumers;

(b) the rationale for such increase for old/existing consumers where the infrastructure had been provided long back;

(c) whether the levy of such mandatory minimum charges militates against the exhortations to save electricity;

(d) whether no discount in such charges is given on account of power shut downs, cuts or break-down/failures;

(e) the number of domestic consumers in Chandigarh who have had to pay minimum charges after the recent hike in the tariff; and

(f) the total amount billed on account of minimum charges and the amount chargeable on the basis of actual consumption?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) : The rates of monthly minimum charges (MMC) for various categories of consumers of the UT of Chandigarh have been increased w.e.f. 1st February 2001. The MMC of the domestic category has been increased to Rs.35/- per KW, which is same as applicable in Punjab.

(b) : The MMC are required to be paid by each consumer to cover the fixed charges incurred by the Electricity Department of the UT of Chandigarh for affording the supply to a consumer. The earlier MMC rates were fixed in 1991.The fixed expenses have increased manifold since then, therefore, the increase in MMC was considered necessary.

(c) : The levy of MMC does not violate the national policy to save energy. The average monthly consumption for consumers under different ranges of load works out to be more than the units equivalent to the MMC.

(d) : No discount in such surcharge is given on account of power shutdowns, cuts or breakdowns/failures since the quality of power supply in UT of Chandigarh is very satisfactory.

(e) : The total number of domestic consumers who are covered under MMC is 37,868 as against the total number of domestic consumers of 1,59,726.

(f) : Total amount paid on account of MMC for one cycle of billing is as under :-

1. Revenue from 11000 consumers of the Labour Colonies, Rs.11,33,000/-
who resort to Kundi Connections, taking average
consumption as 75 units per month.

2. Revenue from Defective/Slow running meters & being Rs.36,74,245/-
billed on MMC.

3. Revenue from other consumers being billed on MMC. Rs. 8,92,755/-

Total Rs.57,00,000/-

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The total amount billed on account of MMC for
one cycle of billing is    Rs.57 lacs x 2 Rs.114 lacs (approx).
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The tentative amount on the basis of actual consumption for such consumers under the computerized billing is Rs.63 lakhs in one cycle.